

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the allowability of claims 6, 7 and 11–13 and the allowance of claims 20–22. For the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application, the claims have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter into all of the rejected claims.

Claims 3 and 9–13 were objected to for informalities and have been appropriately amended herein to obviate the objections.

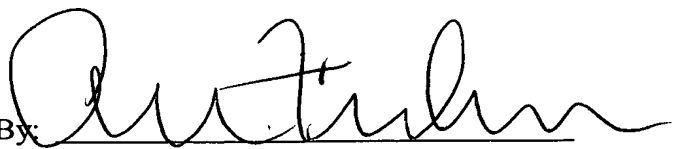
Claims 1–5, 8–10 and 14–19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter “AAPA”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,517,213 to Bhatt et al. (hereinafter “Bhatt”). Claims 1–3, 8–10, 14–16, and 17–19 have each been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of each of claims 6 and 7 in the alternative, which were indicated as being allowable by the examiner. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claims 1–3, which are now in a condition for allowance, and therefore claims 4 and 5 are allowable for the same reasons.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33152.

Respectfully submitted,

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